

MINUTES of the MEETING of the OVERBURY AND CONDERTON PARISH COUNCIL held on Monday 9 March 2015 at 7.00 pm in Overbury Village Hall

PRESENT: Mrs Georgina Milway
Mr Peter Horton
Mr David Worley
Mrs Jane Carr
Miss R Long/Parish Clerk

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Mr Richard Southby, who had been called away to attend a funeral. Mr Southby's apologies were accepted.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors were reminded of the need to keep up to date their Register of Interests, and to declare any Personal Interest or Prejudicial Interest relating to any items on the Agenda. There were no Declarations of Interest for the Meeting.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 6 January 2015, which had been circulated with the Agenda papers, were approved and signed as correct by the Chairman.

4. PROGRESS REPORTS

(1) New Homes Bonus Scheme

The Clerk had received a letter from Tracy Perkins of Wychavon to let us know that the Council had put a hold on releasing any new tranches of NHB until the next government's policy has been clarified. The Clerk confirmed that the NHB sum of £1441.00 that was already available to the Parish Council is unaffected by this decision.

(2) Vacancy for Parish Councillor to represent Overbury

The vacancy for a Councillor to represent Overbury has been overtaken by the forthcoming Parish Council elections on 7 May 2015. After discussion the format of an information sheet to be circulated within the parish was agreed, and it was hoped that this would encourage interest in serving as a Parish Councillor.

(3) Bredon Hill Conservation Group

The Clerk had spoken to Mr Hopkins, who confirmed that he had been contacted by the Group secretary and would be attending the meeting arranged for 22 April 2015, after which he will report back to the Parish Council.

(4) Cricket Club – problem of dog fouling

The Clerk explained that suitable signage for the playing field had not yet been agreed with the Estate. However, she was able to report that two new dog bins had been purchased since the previous meeting – one sited near the playing field car park as agreed at the previous meeting, and a second bin had been purchased to replace an ancient open topped bin at the corner of Pigeon Lane, which had been used as an unofficial dog bin and was posing a health threat to anyone sitting on the adjacent bench.

(5) Worcestershire County Council Local Response Team

The Chairman reported that the Team had completed free of charge the work of siding out the new footpath between Overbury and Conderton, and the Clerk had written to the Team organiser to thank them for their excellent work.

(6) Re-instatement of Overbury Bus Stop clearway

The Chairman reported that the yellow zig-zag lines outside the School had been extended to the Old School House, and that the Bus Stop Clearway markings to extend the no parking restriction to the end of the bus shelter on the same side of the road would be completed by the end of the month.

5. WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

(1) Publication of the Statement of Community Involvement update February 2015

The Update takes account of the changes to the planning system and explains how the County Council will seek community involvement in Minerals and Waste planning, together with County Council developments such as schools and new roads.

(2) Community Transport Update

The Council is keen to encourage Community Transport and the Update describes some of the recently established and successful schemes that have been established in the County.

6. **WYCHAVON DISTRICT COUNCIL**

(1) Strong Communities Event 25 March

The Clerk hopes to attend this Event.

(2) Communities Grant Scheme

This is the annual Scheme offering a pot of £50,000 for voluntary and charitable groups. It was noted that village hall improvements would be an acceptable project for funding under the Scheme at some point in the future.

7. **WORCESTERSHIRE CALC**

The Clerk pointed out the various items of interest from the most recent Updates (2015 Updates 6 & 7 had been circulated to Councillors with the agenda papers), and the following documents were available:

- (1) Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities (2) Plain English Guide to the Planning System
- (3) Freedom of Information Act – Legal Briefing (4) Parish & Community Council Meetings – law and procedure (5) Byelaws (England) – Legal Topic Note

8. **SOUTH WORCESTERSHIRE DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

(1) The Clerk referred to the letter from the Project Manager, which had been circulated to Councillors, with regard to three new consultations on the Planning Documents.

9. **TEWKESBURY BOROUGH PLAN – SITE OPTIONS AND POLICIES CONSULTATION**

The invitation to comment on the draft plan and its contents had been circulated to Councillors prior to the Meeting.

10. **DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

The letter had been circulated to Councillors before the Meeting and explains that the Government is providing further funding for Neighbourhood Plans.

11. **WEST MERCIA POLICE**

(1) PACT (Partners and Communities Together) will be holding a village surgery at Bredon Village Hall at 10.30 am every second Thursday of each month.

(2) Our local Police Support Officer, Steven Tinkler, is pleased to report that they have no crimes to report in the last month in their area.

12. **FINANCE**

Current Financial Position

The Clerk reported that the sum carried forward from the January meeting was £5299.94 from which the sum of £267.53 had been paid to Wychavon District Council being the annual fee for the emptying and cleaning of three dog bins. The balance of £5032.41 was therefore brought forward to the March meeting.

The following bills were then approved for payment:

	£		
Overbury Estate – photocopying	60.00		
Overbury Estate – parish grass mowing	450.00		
G Milway – Chairman’s annual expenses	100.00		
Friends of St Faith’s – annual grant towards Churchyard mowing	150.00	Total	£760.00

These payments will leave a balance in the bank account of £4272.41.

The Clerk reported that a Precept for 2015/16 of £3118.00 had been applied for, which is a 1.9% increase over the previous year’s Precept; she also reported that she had completed the form to reclaim £924.84 of VAT paid since 31 March 2012. It was also noted that the two extra dog bins referred to under Progress Reports, item 4, would cost just over £1,000, which would be paid for before the year end, together with the Clerk’s March salary.

10. **CLERK'S REPORT ON URGENT DECISIONS SINCE THE LAST MEETING**

There was one urgent Clerk's decision, which had been agreed with the Chairman had been the purchase of an extra dog bin to be sited at the Pigeon Lane corner as described above at Item 4(4).

11. **COUNCILLORS' ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA**

There were no such items for the next meeting.

12. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council and has been arranged for 7pm on Monday 18 May 2015 at Overbury Village Hall and will follow the Annual Parish Meeting at 6.30pm

There being no further business, the Meeting closed.